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The Purple Circle

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Spring Edition 2023

13 ENGINEER REGIMENT



First Birthday Parade

PASSING PARADE

Ian Murray OAM passed away on 29 May 2023 aged 93 years and 3 months. Ian served with 22 and 17 Construction Squadrons and served for 3 years with the British Commonwealth Engineer Regiment in Japan. Ian was a member of the Association.

Bruce James Mansfield passed away on 15 July 2023 aged 76 years and 7 months. Bruce served in Vietnam from November 1968 to September 1969 with 17 Construction Squadron and sailed to Vietnam on AV 1356 Clive Steele from January to March 1970 and again on AV1353 Harry Chauvel from May to June 1970.

James Haworth Williams passed away on 28 July 2023 aged 76 years and 4 months. James served in Vietnam from November 1966 to December with 55 Engineer Works and parks Squadron.

Joseph Phillip Laycock is presumed dead, killed in a helicopter accident during Ex Talisman – Sabre on 28 July 2023 aged 43 years and 7 months. Joseph served with 3 Combat Engineer Regiment from 1999 to 2004 before transferring to Aviation and retraining as a Loadmaster.

Leslie Thomas Dennis passed away on 6 August 2023 aged 90 years and 3 months. Les sailed to Vietnam on AV 1354 Brundell White from August to December 1968 and again on AS 3051 John Monash in December 1968.

Leonard Michael (Mike) Smith passed away on 11 August 2023 aged 85 years and 1 month. Mike served in Vietnam with Australian Army Training Team from January to December 1968.

John Edward (Eddie) Sulman passed away on 22 August 2023 aged 79 years and 7 months. Eddie served in Vietnam with 17 Construction Squadron from March 1967 to March 1968. He was a 16th Intake Army Apprentice bricklayer.

LEST WE FORGET

Oldest Member

The Associations oldest member, Gordon Briglin is still going strong. He turned 104 back in July. Gordon is our last World War 2 veteran having served at Rottneest Island, Fremantle and Morotai Island with 5 Amphibious Vehicles Increment.

NEW COMMITTEE for 2023 – 2024

At the annual general meeting held on 16 July, a new committee was elected.

The executive consists of:

President - Ian Johnston

Vice Pres - Russell McEntyre

Secretary - Trevor Jones

Treasurer - Harry Hickson

The following members were elected to the general committee: Phil Gibbings, Trevor Johnson, John Koekemoer and Lynne Reynolds.

Congratulations to all members on your election to the new committee for the financial year 2023 – 2024.

MEET OUR MEMBERS

Phil Gibbings



Phil was born at Mt Lawley in May 1958 and has 3 older brothers. He grew up in Bassendean and attended West Road and Eden Hill Primary schools and then Hampton Senior High school.

Phil left school in 1973 at the age of 15 and took up an apprenticeship as an electrical fitter with CSBP & Farmers. In 2004 he joined the Australian Public Service (APS) and scored a 6-month posting to Saudia Arabia as the ADF Site Manager for OPERATION ACCORDIAN from October 2015 to April 2016.

He joined the Army Reserve in February 1976 and was posted to 13 Field Squadron where he served for 36 years except for a 2-year posting to 5 Trg Gp. He was the longest serving Sapper at 13 Fd Sqn and the last SSgt. In 2012, Phil was posted to HQ WA Army Cadet Brigade until he retired in August 2022 after a grand total of 46.5 years of service to the ADF. Phil was presented with his second Federation Star just prior to his retirement.

Phil met Kim Carpenter in 1981 at 13 Fd Sqn and they married in February 1983. They have 3 children and 5 grandchildren.

He is currently employed with Defence APS at RAAF Base Pearce.

Phil and Kim currently live in Alexander Heights.



13 ENGINEER REGIMENT

13 Engineer Regiment celebrated their 1st birthday on Saturday 1st July with a parade on James Oval at the University of Western Australia. Present on the parade was the RAE Corps Sovereigns Banner carried by Banner Ensign, LT Neil Hannaway and escorted by SGT Russell Beazley and SGT Aaron Chandler.

The Parade Commander was LTCOL Lach Robertson CO 13 Engr Regt, the Reviewing Officer was the 13 Brigade Commander, BRIG Brett Challoner CSC and the Principal Official Guest was Senator Linda Reynolds CSC. The Australian Army Band – Perth provided support during the parade.



CADET PRESENTATION

On Saturday, 15 July the President attended the Cadet end of course promotion parade at Irwin Barracks and presented the incoming Cadet Under Officer, CUO Georgie Gwinnut with her certificate and award.

Congratulations Georgie on your appointment to Cadet Under Officer.



SANDAKAN DAY

On Sunday 20th August, Carine High School held their annual commemoration service for the soldiers who lost their lives as Japanese POWs at Sandakan POW camp, on the death march and at the Ranau POW camp. Of the 2,496 Australian and British POWs sent to Sandakan, less the officers who were sent to Kuching prior to the death march, only 6 managed to escape the brutality.

The Sandakan POW memorial on Marri Walk contains the names of the 137 West Australians who died, of which 46 were Sappers from the 2/6 Field Park Company.



FELLOWSHIP LUNCHEON

The Mt Henry Tavern was the venue for our last luncheon held on 1 August. There was a good turnout with 20 members, partners and guests attending.

Those attending were John Koekemoer, Dave Hewett, Bob Brackenbury & Marina, Kaye Dallas & Tex McPherson, Alf Hernandez, Peter & Lynne Renyolds, Jeanette Barankewitsch & Joan Evans, Jim Spink, Vance Bond, Mike Robinson, Carl Phillimore, Trevor Jones and Trevor Johnson.



Again, thanks to Trevor Johnson for organising the luncheon. Our next luncheon is scheduled to be at the Ravenswood Hotel for late October-early November. More details for follow as we get closer to the date.

WW2 War Cemetery

During a recent holiday through the Kimberley's and northern part of the Northern Territory, I came across a Commonwealth War Graves Cemetery at Adelaide River.

The cemetery contains the graves of some 435 army, air force, navy personnel as well as civilians who were killed during the bombing of Darwin or who died of wounds while being treated in the numerous military hospitals operating between Katherine and Darwin.

A central monument contained the names of the 4 Sappers killed in Darwin.



A Piece of Unit History



13 Fd Sqn Annual Camp 1977

Do You Know

The unknown sapper in the last edition of the Purple Circle was Jack Maunder. Brian O'Toole was the only member who identified Jack.

This Edition's sappers served with 13 Fd Sqn as the Training WO.

Do you recognise the Sapper shown.



Important Notice

The President, Ian Johnston no longer has a telephone landline, contact can only be made via emails – raeassoc2016@gmail.com , by phone or text message on - 0409 019 518

Sorry for any inconvenience to our members.

NOTICES

Next Meeting

The next meeting will be the General Meeting held on Sunday 17 September. The meeting following and the last one for 2023, will be held on Sunday 19 November.

Annual Fees

Annual subscriptions are now due for the 2023/2024 financial year. For those members who have not paid yet, the final date for payment is 30 September. After that date you will be an unfinancial member and your name removed from our books on 1 October 2023 and deleted from our mailing list.

Contact Details

When you move house or change contact details, please do the polite thing, and let the Secretary know of your new details so we can stay in touch. It saves a lot of hard work and time by committee members to chase up details.

The Secretary, Trevor Jones can be contacted by phone - 0413 376 273 or by email - raeassocwasec2017@gmail.com

Laughs

Change is inevitable, except from a vending machine.

Those who live by the sword get shot by those who don't.

As I've gotten older, people think I am lazy. The truth is I'm just being more energy efficient.

Life is fraught with opportunities to keep your mouth shut.

A nation that forgets its past has no future.

I found that I have been happier since I changed from coffee in the morning to orange juice. My doctor explained that it's the vitamin C and natural sugars, but I think it's the vodka.

More Birthday Parade photos

